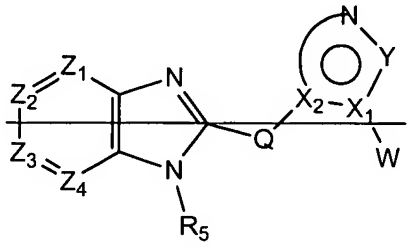
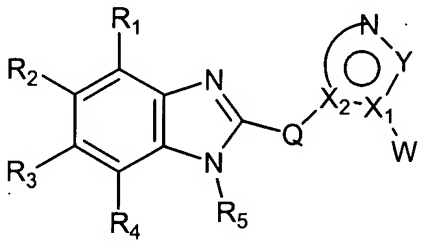
Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of the formula:

a'





or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

~~Z_1 is nitrogen or CR_1;~~

~~Z_2 is nitrogen or CR_2;~~

~~Z_3 is nitrogen or CR_3;~~

~~Z_4 is nitrogen or CR_4;~~

~~provided that no more than two of Z_1, Z_2, Z_3, and Z_4 are nitrogen;~~

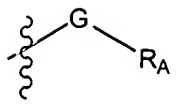
R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, haloalkyl, and haloalkoxy,

ii) alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, -NH(R_{10}), -N(R_{10})(R_{11}), hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, (R_{10})NHalkyl-, (R_{10})(R_{11})Nalkyl-, alkanoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20},

wherein R_{10} and R_{11} are independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkanoyl, and mono and dialkylaminoalkyl; and

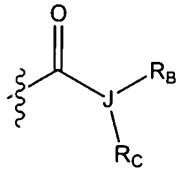
iii) a group of the formula:



where G is a bond, alkyl, -O-, -C(=O)-, or $-CH_2C(=O)-$, and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20},

iv) a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-alkyl, and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkanoyl, heteroaryl, and mono and dialkylaminoalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, alkoxy, and alkyl;

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain:

a) one or more double bonds,

b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO_2, or N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen, Ar_1, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, or Ar_1alkyl; wherein Ar_1 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, alkoxy, and alkyl, and/or

c) one or more substituents R_{20};

v) $-OC(=O)R_E$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-S(O)_nR_E$, $-S(O)_nNH_2$, $-S(O)_nNHR_E$, $-S(O)_nNR_ER_F$, $-NHC(=O)R_E$, $-C(=NR_E)R_F$, $-HC=N-OH$, $-HC=N(alkoxy)$, $-HC=N(alkyl)$, $-NR_EC(=O)R_F$, $-NHS(O)_mR_E$, and $-NR_ES(O)_mR_F$, where m is 0, 1 or 2, and

R_E and R_F are independently selected at each occurrence from alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, alkoxy, mono- or dialkylamino, aryl, or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 of R_{30};

R_{20} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of: halogen; hydroxy; nitro; cyano; amino; alkyl; alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino; cycloalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl; cycloalkylalkoxy; alkenyl; alkynyl; haloalkyl; oxo; haloalkoxy; mono- and dialkylamino; aminoalkyl; and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R_{30} is independently selected at each occurrence from halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, alkyl, alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, oxo, mono- and dialkylamino, aminoalkyl, and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R_5 represents hydrogen or haloalkyl; or

R_5 represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, or (cycloalkyl)alkyl, each of which may contain one or more double or triple bonds, and each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 of R_{30}, or

R_5 represents aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroarylalkyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of haloalkyl, amino, $-NH(R_{10})$, $-N(R_{10})(R_{11})$, carboxamido, $(R_{10})NHcarbonyl$, $(R_{10})(R_{11})Ncarbonyl$, halogen, hydroxy, nitro,

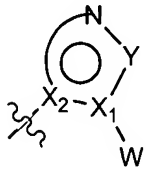
cyano, amino, alkyl, alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

Q represents $-C(R_6)(R_7)$ or oxygen,

with the proviso that Q is not oxygen when X_2 is nitrogen;

R_6 and R_7 independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or alkyl;

the group:



represents a 5 to 7 membered heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl ring containing up to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, sulfur, and oxygen, said 5 to 7 membered heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl ring is substituted at each carbon atom by R, and substituted at each nitrogen atom available for substitution by R', wherein

R is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, carboxamido, and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which may be further substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, alkyl, and alkoxy, where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms;

R' is independently chosen at each occurrence from alkyl, hydrogen, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl(alkyl), and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which 3- to 7-

membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, alkyl, and alkoxy, where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms;

X_1 and X_2 independently represent nitrogen, carbon or CH;

Y is nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, -CH-, $-CH_2-$, or absent; and

W represents aryl or heteroaryl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R_{30}, $-CO_2H$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-C(O)R_E$, and $-S(O)_mR_E$, $-OR_E$, where R_{30} and R_E are as defined above and m is 0, 1, or 2.

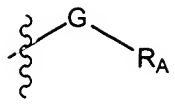
Claim 2 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 1, wherein

R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

ii) (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, alkynyl, ((C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl)(C_1-C_4)alkyl, $-NH(R_{10})$, $-N(R_{10})(R_{11})$, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})NH (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkanoyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxycarbonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylsulfonyl, (C_1-C_6)alkylthio, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}, wherein R_{10} and R_{11} are independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkanoyl, and mono and di(C_1-C_6)alkylaminoalkyl;

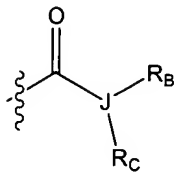
iii) a group of the formula:



where G is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, -O-, -C(=O)-, or $-CH_2C(=O)-$, and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring consisting of from 3 to 8 ring atoms, and each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O; said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}, and

iv) a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-(C_1-C_6)alkyl and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, $(C_3-C_8$cycloalkyl) (C_1-C_4)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkanoyl, heteroaryl, and mono and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, C_1-C_6alkoxy, and C_1-C_6alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

a) one or more double bonds;

b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO_2, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen, Ar_1, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, or $Ar_1(C_1-C_6)$alkyl; wherein Ar_1 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen

from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, C_1-C_6alkoxy, and C_1-C_6alkyl; and/or

c) one or more substituents R_{20};

v) $-OC(=O)R_E$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-S(O)_nR_E$, $-S(O)_nNH_2$, $-S(O)_nNHR_E$, $-S(O)_nNR_ER_F$, $-NHC(=O)R_E$, $-C(=NR_E)R_F$, $-HC=N-OH$, $-HC=N(C_1$-C_6alkoxy), $-HC=N(C_1$-C_6alkyl), $-NR_EC(=O)R_F$, $-NHS(O)_mR_E$, and $-NR_ES(O)_mR_F$, where m is 0, 1 or 2, and

R_E and R_F are independently selected at each occurrence from $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, mono- and di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, aryl, and heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 of R_{30};

R_{20} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of halogen; hydroxy; nitro; cyano; amino; $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl; $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino; $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl; $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl; $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkoxy; $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl; $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl; halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl; halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy; oxo; mono- and di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino; amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl; and mono- and di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_{30} is independently selected at each occurrence from halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, oxo, mono- and di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, and mono- and di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_5 represents hydrogen or halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl; or

R_5 represents $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl, or $(C_3\text{-}C_8$cycloalkyl$)(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, each of which may contain one or more double or triple bonds, and each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 of R_{30} or

R_5 represents aryl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaryl$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of:

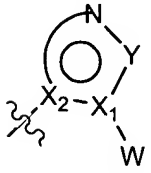
halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, amino, NH(R_{10}), N$(R_{10})(R_{11})$, carboxamido, NH(R_{10})carbonyl, N$(R_{10})(R_{11})$carbonyl, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, heterocyclo$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, amino$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, and mono- and di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl;

Q represents $-C(R_6)(R_7)$ or oxygen,

with the proviso that Q is not oxygen when X_2 is nitrogen;

R_6 and R_7 independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or $C_1\text{-}C_6$alkyl;

the group:



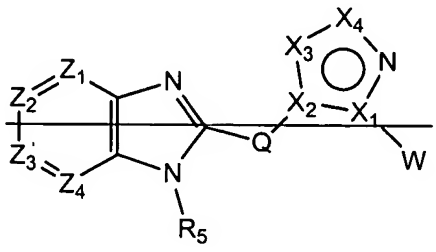
represents a 5 to 7 membered heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl ring containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, sulfur, and oxygen, said 5 to 7 membered heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl ring is substituted at each carbon atom by R, and is substituted at each nitrogen atom available for substitution by R', wherein

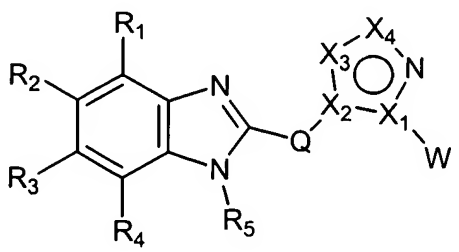
R is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl)(C_1-C_4)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, haloalkoxy, carboxamido, and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which may be further substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, and -O(C_{1-4}alkyl), where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms;

R' is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl(C_1-C_4alkyl), and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, and -O(C_{1-4}alkyl), where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms; and

X_1, X_2, W, and Y are as defined in Claim 1.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 2 of the formula:





wherein ~~Z_1, Z_2, Z_3, Z_4, R_5, Q, X_1, X_2, and W are as defined in Claim 2;~~

X_3 and X_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of carbon, CR, N, O, S, NH, and N(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

provided that at least one of X_1, X_2, X_3, and X_4 is carbon or CR, wherein

A1 R is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, carboxamido, and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which may be further substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, and -O(C_{1-4}alkyl), where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms.

Claims 4-6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein

X_2 is carbon; and Q is oxygen.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein

X_2 is N; and Q is C(R_6)(R_7).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein

X_2 is carbon; and Q is C(R_6)(R_7).

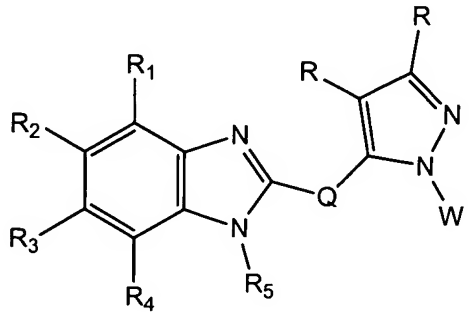
Claim 10 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein X_1 is carbon; X_2 is N; and Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein X_1 is nitrogen; X_2 is carbon; and Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Q1

Claim 12 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, of the formula



~~wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, Q, and W are as defined in Claim 6~~.

Claim 14 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 13 wherein Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 15 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 14, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of

i) hydrogen, halogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, and

ii) phenyl and pyridyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, $C_1\text{-}C_4$alkyl, and $-O(C_1\text{-}C_4$alkyl);

R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, thiophenyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, or pyrimidinyl;

R_6 and R_7 independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or C_1-C_6 alkyl; and

W represents phenyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, or pyrimidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 independently selected R_{30} groups.

Claim 16 (original) A compound or salt according to Claim 14, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1-C_2)alkyl;

R_1, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

Q is CH_2; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl,

isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R_{30} groups.

Claim 17 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 16 wherein

A1 R_1, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyridyl, or thiazolyl, each which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2haloalkyl, C_1-C_2alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 18 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 19 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17, wherein R, R_1, and R_4 are hydrogen.

Claim 20 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 21 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17 wherein

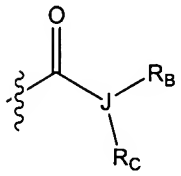
R_2 is chosen from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, -NH(R_{10}), -N(R_{10})(R_{11}), (R_{10})NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 22 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17 wherein

R_2 is a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, C_3-$C_8)$cycloalkyl, and $(C_3$-C_8cycloalkyl) $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

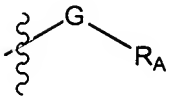
a) one or more double bonds,

b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO_2, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

c) one or more substituents R_{20}.

Claim 23 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17 wherein

R_2 is a group of the formula:



where G is a bond or C_1-C_2alkyl; and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 24 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 23 wherein R_A is chosen from phenyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and oxazolyl each of which is is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Q'

Claim 25 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 14, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1-C_2)alkyl;

R_1, R_2, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

Q is CH_2; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R_{30} groups.

Claim 26 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 25 wherein

R_1, R_2, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyridyl, or thiazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2haloalkyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 27 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 28 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26, wherein R, R_1, and R_4 are hydrogen.

Claim 29 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 30 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26 wherein

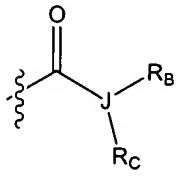
R_3 is chosen from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, -NH(R_{10}), -N(R_{10})(R_{11}), (R_{10})NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 31 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26 wherein

R_3 is a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-(C_1-C_6)alkyl and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, and (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl) (C_1-C_4)alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

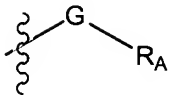
a) one or more double bonds,

b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO_2, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

c) one or more substituents R_{20}.

Claim 32 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26 wherein

R_3 is a group of the formula:



where G is a bond or C_1-C_2alkyl; and

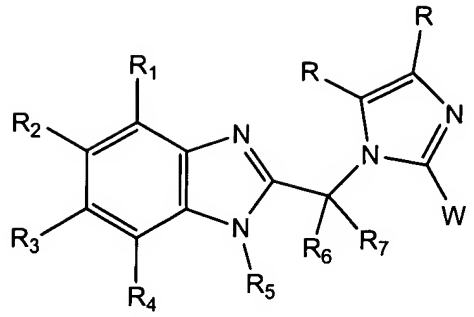
R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 33 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 32 wherein R_A is chosen from phenyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and oxazolyl each of which is is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 34 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26 wherein

R_3 is -HC=N-OH or -HC=N(C_1-C_6 alkoxy).

Claim 35 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3 of the formula



~~wherein R, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, and W are as defined in Claim 6~~.

Claim 36 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of

i) hydrogen, halogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, and

ii) phenyl and pyridyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, $C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl, and -O($C_{1\text{-}4}$alkyl);

R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, mono or di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, amino$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, and mono- and di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl;

R_5 represents hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, thiophenyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, or pyrimidinyl;

R_6 and R_7 independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or $C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkyl; and

W represents phenyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, or

pyrimidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R_{30} groups.

Claim 37 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

W represents a 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein the 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R_{30}, $-CO_2H$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-C(O)R_E$, $-S(O)_mR_E$, and $-OR_E$; and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 38 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

W represents a 5-membered heteroaryl group, wherein the 5-membered heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R_{30}, $-CO_2H$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-C(O)R_E$, $-S(O)_mR_E$, and $-OR_E$, and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 39 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1-C_2)alkyl;

R_1, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl,

isoxazolyl, pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R_{30} groups.

Claim 40 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 39 wherein

R_1, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyridyl, or thiazolyl, each which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2haloalkyl, C_1-C_2alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 41 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 42 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40, wherein R, R_1, and R_4 are hydrogen.

Claim 43 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 44 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40 wherein

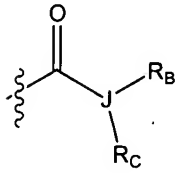
R_2 is chosen from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl) C_1-C_4alkyl, -NH(R_{10}), -N(R_{10})(R_{11}), (R_{10})NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 45 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40 wherein

R_2 is a group of the formula



a'

where J is N, CH, or C-(C_1-C_6)alkyl and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, and (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl) (C_1-C_4)alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

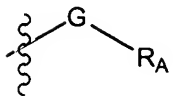
a) one or more double bonds,

b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO_2, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

c) one or more substituents R_{20}.

Claim 46 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40 wherein

R_2 is a group of the formula:



where G is a bond or C_1-C_2alkyl; and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 47 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 46 wherein R_A is chosen from phenyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and oxazolyl each of which is is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

a'

Claim 48 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40 wherein

R_2 is -HC=N-OH or -HC=N(C_1-C_6alkoxy).

Claim 49 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1-C_2)alkyl;

R_1, R_2, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R_{30} groups.

Claim 50 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 49 wherein

R_1, R_2, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyridyl, or thiazolyl, each which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2haloalkyl, C_1-C_2alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 51 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 52 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50, wherein R, R_1, and R_4 are hydrogen.

Claim 53 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 54 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50 wherein

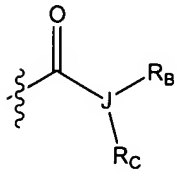
R_3 is chosen from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, -NH(R_{10}), -N(R_{10})(R_{11}), (R_{10})NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl) C_1-C_4alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 55 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50 wherein

R_3 is a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-(C_1-C_6)alkyl and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, and (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl) (C_1-C_4)alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

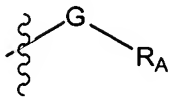
a) one or more double bonds,

b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO_2, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

c) one or more substituents R_{20}.

Claim 56 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50 wherein

R_3 is a group of the formula:



where G is a bond or C_1-C_2alkyl; and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 57 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 56 wherein R_A is chosen from phenyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and oxazolyl each of which is is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 58 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50 wherein

R_3 is -HC=N-OH or -HC=N(C_1-C_6alkoxy).

Claim 59 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein:

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

X_1 is carbon; X_2 is nitrogen; X_3 is CR; X_4 is nitrogen; and Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 60 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

X_1 is carbon; X_2 is nitrogen; X_3 is nitrogen; X_4 is CR; and Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 61 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

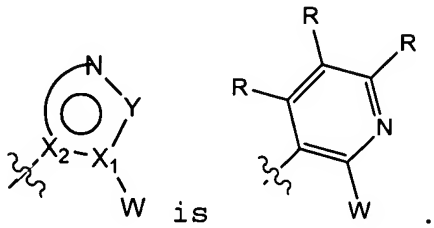
X_1 is carbon; X_2 is carbon; X_3 is S; and X_4 is CR.

Claim 62 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 61 wherein Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 63 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 2, wherein

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

and the group



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Claim 64 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 63 wherein Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 65 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

X_1 is nitrogen; X_2 is carbon; X_3 is nitrogen; and X_4 is CR.

Claim 66. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

X_1 is carbon; X_2 is carbon; X_3 is NH or N(C_1-C_6alkyl); and X_4 is CR.

Claim 67 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

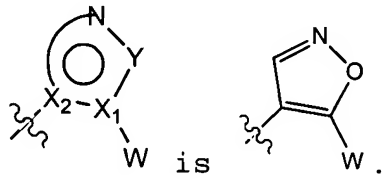
~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

X_1 is carbon; X_2 is nitrogen; X_3 is nitrogen; X_4 is nitrogen; and Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 68 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 2, wherein

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

~~and~~ the group



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Claim 69 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3, wherein

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

X_1 is nitrogen; X_2 is carbon; X_3 is CR; and X_4 is nitrogen.

Claim 70 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 69 wherein Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 71 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3, wherein

~~Z_1 is CR_1; Z_2 is CR_2; Z_3 is CR_3; Z_4 is CR_4;~~

X_1 is nitrogen; X_2 is carbon; X_3 is nitrogen; and X_4 is nitrogen.

a'

Claim 72 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 71 wherein Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claims 73-164 (cancelled)

Claim 165. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or salt according to Claim 1 combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

Claim 166 (original): A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of a $GABA_A$ receptor, said method comprising contacting a cell expressing such a receptor with an amount of a compound or salt according to Claim 1 sufficient to detectably alter the electrophysiology of the cell, wherein a detectable alteration of the electrophysiology of the cell indicates an alteration of the signal-transducing activity of $GABA_A$ receptors.

Claim 167 (original): A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of a $GABA_A$ receptor, said method comprising contacting a cell expressing such receptors with an amount of a compound or salt according to Claim 1 to detectably alter the chloride conductance in vitro of cell expressing $GABA_a$ receptors.

Claim 168 (currently amended) The method of Claim 167 wherein the cell ~~is~~ recombinantly expresses a heterologous $GABA_A$ receptor and the alteration of the electrophysiology of the cell is detected by intracellular recording or patch clamp recording.

Claim 169 (original): The method of Claim 167 wherein the cell is a neuronal cell that is contacted in vivo in an animal, the cell is contacted with the compound or salt dissolved in a body fluid, and the alteration in the electrophysiology of the cell is detected as a change in the animal's behavior.

Q'

Claim 170 (original): The method of Claim 169 wherein the animal is a human, the neuronal cell is a brain cell, and the body fluid is cerebrospinal fluid.

Claim 171 (original): A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of a $GABA_A$ receptor, the method comprising exposing a cell expressing the $GABA_A$ receptor to an amount of a compound or salt according to Claim 1 sufficient to inhibit RO15-1788 binding *in vitro* to cells expressing a human $GABA_A$ receptor.

Claim 172 (original): A method for the treatment of anxiety, depression, a sleep disorder, schizophrenia, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, or for the enhancement of memory, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of Claim 1 to a patient.

Claims 173-177 (cancelled)

Claim 178 (original): A package comprising a pharmaceutical composition of claim 165 in a container and further comprising at least one of:

instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from an anxiety disorder, or

instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from depression, or

instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from a sleeping disorder,

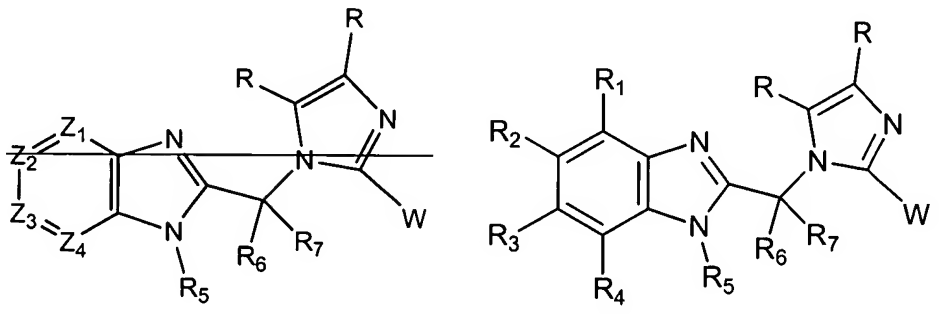
instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from schizophrenia, or

instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder.

Claim 179 (original): A package comprising a pharmaceutical composition of claim 165 in a container and further comprising indicia comprising at least one of: instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from Alzheimer's dementia or instructions for using the composition to enhance memory in a patient.

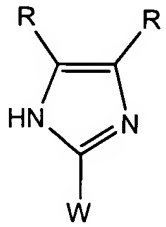
Claims 180-182 (cancelled)

Claim 183 (original): A process for preparing a compound of Formula A



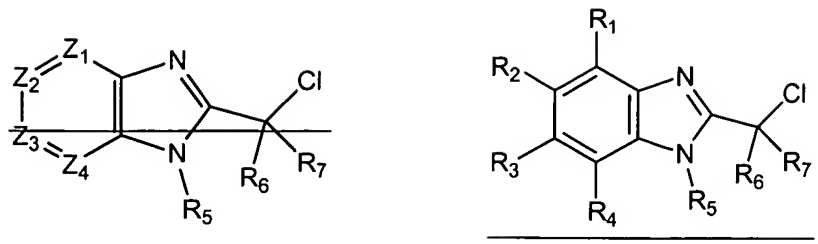
Formula A

comprising reacting a compound of Formula B



Formula B

with a compound of Formula C



Formula C

wherein:

~~Z_1 is nitrogen or CR_1;~~

~~Z_2 is nitrogen or CR_2;~~

~~Z_3 is nitrogen or CR_3;~~

~~Z_4 is nitrogen or CR_4;~~

~~provided that no more than two of Z_1, Z_2, Z_3, and Z_4 are nitrogen;~~

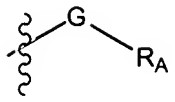
R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, haloalkyl, and haloalkoxy,

ii) alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, $-NH(R_{10})$, $-N(R_{10})(R_{11})$, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, $(R_{10})NHalkyl$, $(R_{10})(R_{11})Nalkyl$, alkanoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20},

wherein R_{10} and R_{11} are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkanoyl, and mono and dialkylaminoalkyl; and

iii) a group of the formula:

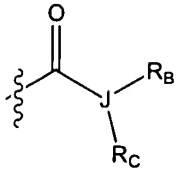


where G is a bond, alkyl, -O-, -C(=O)-, or $-CH_2C(=O)-$, and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently

chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}, and

iv) a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-alkyl, and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkanoyl, heteroaryl, and mono and dialkylaminoalkyl,

each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, alkoxy, and alkyl;

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain:

a) one or more double bonds,

b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO_2, or N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen, Ar_1, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, or Ar_1alkyl; wherein Ar_1 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, alkoxy, and alkyl, and/or

c) one or more substituents R_{20};

v) $-OC(=O)R_E$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-S(O)_nR_E$, $-S(O)_nNH_2$, $-S(O)_nNHR_E$, $-S(O)_nNR_ER_F$, $-NHC(=O)R_E$, $-C(=NR_E)R_F$, -HC=N-OH, -HC=N(alkoxy), -HC=N(alkyl), $-NR_EC(=O)R_F$, $-NHS(O)_mR_E$, and $-NR_ES(O)_mR_F$, where m is 0, 1 or 2, and

R_E and R_F are independently selected at each occurrence from alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, alkoxy, mono-

or dialkylamino, aryl, or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 of R_{30};

R_{20} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of: halogen; hydroxy; nitro; cyano; amino; alkyl; alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino; cycloalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl; cycloalkylalkoxy; alkenyl; alkynyl; haloalkyl; oxo; haloalkoxy; mono- and dialkylamino; aminoalkyl; and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R_{30} is independently selected at each occurrence from halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, alkyl, alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, oxo, mono- and dialkylamino, aminoalkyl, and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R_5 represents hydrogen or haloalkyl; or

R_5 represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, or (cycloalkyl)alkyl, each of which may contain one or more double or triple bonds, and each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 of R_{30}, or

R_5 represents aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroarylalkyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of haloalkyl, amino, $-NH(R_{10})$, $-N(R_{10})(R_{11})$, carboxamido, $(R_{10})NHcarbonyl$, $(R_{10})(R_{11})Ncarbonyl$, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, alkyl, alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R_6 and R_7 independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or alkyl;

R is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl)(C_1-C_4)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, haloalkoxy, carboxamido, and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which may be further substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, C_{1-4}alkyl, and -O(C_{1-4}alkyl), where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms; and

A'

W represents aryl or heteroaryl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R_{30}, $-CO_2H$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-C(O)R_E$, and $-S(O)_mR_E$, $-OR_E$, where R_{30} and R_E are as defined above and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 184 (original): A process according to Claim 183, wherein:

Z_1 is CR_1, Z_2 is CR_2, Z_3 is CR_3, and Z_4 is CR_4,

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1-C_2)alkyl;

R_1, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl,

pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R_{30} groups.

Claim 185 (original): A process according to Claim 184, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 186 (original): A process according to Claim 184, wherein R, R_1, and R_4 are hydrogen.

Claim 187 (original): A process according to Claim 184, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 188 (original): A process according to Claim 184 wherein

R_2 is chosen from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl) C_1-C_4alkyl, -NH(R_{10}), -N(R_{10})(R_{11}), (R_{10})NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20}.

Claim 189 (original): A process according to Claim 183 wherein

Z_1 is CR_1;

one and only one of Z_2 or Z_3 is nitrogen;

Z_4 is CR_4; and

R_2 or R_3 is chosen from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl) C_1-C_4alkyl, -NH(R_{10}), -N(R_{10})(R_{11}), (R_{10})NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20};

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1-C_2)alkyl;

R_1 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen;

W represents a 5-membered heteroaryl group, the 5-membered heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R_{30}, -CO_2H, -C(=O)OR_E, -C(=O)NHR_E, -C(=O)N$R_E R_F$, -C(O)R_E, and -S(O)$_m R_E$, -OR_E, where R_{30} and R_E are as defined above and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 190 (original): A process according to Claim 189, wherein Z_3 is nitrogen.

Claim 191 (original): A process according to Claim 189 wherein

R_1 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is thiazolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, or isoxazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2haloalkyl, C_1-C_2alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 192 (original): A process according to Claim 191, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl.

Claim 193 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 191, wherein R, R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen.

a'

Claim 194 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 191, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 195 (original): A process according to Claim 189, wherein Z_2 is nitrogen.

Claim 196 (original): A process according to Claim 195 wherein

R_1 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is thiazolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, or isoxazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2haloalkyl, C_1-C_2alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 197 (original): A process according to Claim 196, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl.

Claim 198 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 196, wherein R, R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen.

Claim 199 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 196, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 200 (original): A process according to Claim 183 wherein

Z_1 is CR_1;

one and only one of Z_2 or Z_3 is nitrogen;

Z_4 is CR_4;

R_2 or R_3 is chosen from

A1 i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy,

ii) C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_8cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, (C_3-C_8cycloalkyl) C_1-C_4alkyl, -NH(R_{10}), -N(R_{10})(R_{11}), (R_{10})NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C_1-C_4alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20};

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1-C_2)alkyl;

R_1, R_3, and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; and

W represents a 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl group, wherein the 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R_{30}, $-CO_2H$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-C(O)R_E$, and $-S(O)_mR_E$, $-OR_E$, where R_{30} and R_E are as defined above and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 201 (original): A process according to Claim 200, wherein Z_3 is nitrogen.

Claim 202 (original): A process according to Claim 201 wherein

R_1 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, or pyridizinyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2haloalkyl, C_1-C_2alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 203 (original): A process according to Claim 202, wherein W is 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 204 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 202, wherein R, R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen.

Claim 205 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 202, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 206 (original): A process according to Claim 200, wherein Z_2 is nitrogen.

Claim 207 (original): A process according to Claim 206 wherein

R_1 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, or pyridizinyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2haloalkyl, C_1-C_2alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 208 (original): A process according to Claim 207, wherein W is 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 209 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 207, wherein R, R_1 and R_4 are hydrogen.

Claim 210 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 207, wherein R_5 is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 211 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

1-Propyl-2-{[2-(2-fluoropyrid-6-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-cyano-1H-benzimidazole;

1-Ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-pyrazol-3-yl]methyl}-5-cyano-1H-benzimidazole;

1-Ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-pyrazol-3-yl]methyl}-5-acetyl-1H-benzimidazole;

3-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-propyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;

1-[3-Ethyl-2-(2-thiazol-2-yl-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-3H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-ethanone;

4-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-2-methylbutan-2-ol;

2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-2-{[2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 212 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

6-chloro-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-2-{[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-3-propyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

6-chloro-2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 213 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-[(4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-fluoro-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

5-fluoro-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-

propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

5-chloro-2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole;

5-chloro-2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 214 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-{[2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

5-bromo-1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-Propyl-2-{[2-(2-fluoropyrid-6-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-cyano-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

3-{1-[(1-ethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)methyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl}benzonitrile;

2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-5-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(3-cyanophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-

benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 215 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

3-{1-[(5-bromo-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)methyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl}benzonitrile;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5,6-dicarbonitrile;

3-{1-[(5-acetyl-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)methyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl}benzonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-6-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-2-yl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 216 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)propan-1-one;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(2-fluoroethyl)-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

a1 1-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-methyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 217 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-thien-3-yl-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(1-propyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 218 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

5,6-dichloro-1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-6-methyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-6-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-6-carbonitrile;

3-ethyl-6-methyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-3H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-6-methyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 219 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-

yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-6-fluoro-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-6-fluoro-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(5-fluoro-2-methylphenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-Propyl-2-(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-{1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanone; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 220 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-ethyl-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[1-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-

1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

2-{[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-(2-{[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-6-carbonitrile;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)propan-1-one;

2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1-(3-fluoropropyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(2-fluoroethyl)-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.